

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending, of which claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are withdrawn from consideration.

In Paragraph No. 1 of the Action, claims 3, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Horie (U.S. 2003/0225188).

Horie is §102(a) prior art as of its publication date of December 4, 2003 and is §102(e) prior art as of its U.S. filing date of May 27, 2003. Both of these dates are later in time than each of Applicant's three priority dates, including Applicants' priority date of February 27, 2003 based on JP 2003-051021. To remove Horie as prior art against the present claims, Applicants submit herewith a verified English translation of their JP 2003-051021 priority document. Section 112 support for the present claims in the priority document is shown in the following chart:

Present Claim	Section 112 Support in Priority Document
3	Claim 1
6	Claim 2
9	Claim 3


In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of claims 3, 6 and 9 based on Horie.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/781,760

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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